

What is claimed is

1. A method for having an interactive television program guide arrange television content retrieved from digital television feeds on user television equipment having a display, wherein black areas are present either on the top and bottom, or the left and right of a displayed program that is broadcast in an aspect ratio that does not match the aspect ratio of the display of the user television equipment, comprising:

placing content in the black areas such that the amount of space occupied by the black areas decreases by the amount of space occupied by the new content, wherein the content that is placed in the black areas is provided by at least one digital television feed.

2. The method defined in claim 1, further comprising:

using windows to contain the content, and wherein the windows are arranged in the black areas.

3. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the content is at least one of the following: text, graphical images, video, audio, data, interactive content, program listings, enhanced broadcasts.

4. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the content is comprised of an interactive application.

5. The method defined in claim 4, wherein the interactive application is comprised of a web browser.

6. The method defined in claim 4, wherein the interactive application is comprised of a chat application.

7. The method defined in claim 1, further comprising:

moving content that is in a part of the black areas to areas that are not part of the black areas causing the amount of space taken up by the black areas to increase by the amount of space taken up the content that has been moved out of the black areas.

8. The method defined in claim 1, further comprising:

resizing content that is in the black areas causing the amount of space taken up by the black areas to change by an amount equivalent to the change in the amount of space the resized content takes up.

9. A method for arranging television content retrieved from digital television feeds on user television equipment having a display, wherein black areas are present either on the top and bottom, or the left and right of a displayed program that is broadcast in an aspect ratio that does not match the aspect ratio of the display of the user television equipment, comprising:

placing content in the black areas such that the amount of space occupied by the black areas decreases by the amount of space occupied by the new content, wherein the content that is placed in the black areas is provided by at least two digital television feeds.

10. The method defined in claim 9, further comprising:

using windows to contain the content,
and wherein the windows are arranged in the black
areas.

11. The method defined in claim 9, wherein
the content is at least one of the following: text,
graphical images, video, audio, data, interactive
content, program listings, enhanced broadcasts.

12. The method defined in claim 11, wherein
the content is comprised of an interactive application.

13. The method defined in claim 11, wherein
the interactive application is comprised of a web
browser.

14. The method defined in claim 11, wherein
the interactive application is comprised of a chat
application.

15. The method defined in claim 9, further
comprising:

moving content that is in a part of the
black areas to areas that are not part of the black
areas causing the amount of space taken up by the black
areas to increase by the amount of space taken up the
content that has been moved out of the black areas.

16. The method defined in claim 9, further
comprising:

resizing content that is in the black
areas causing the amount of area taken up by the black

areas to change by an amount equivalent to the change in the amount of area the resized content takes up.

17. A method for having an interactive television program guide display information regarding digital television feeds on user television equipment having a display, comprising:

displaying a list on the display of the user television equipment of content that is available on one or more digital feeds that are carried on an analog carrier, wherein the list contains elements, at least a majority of which are related to a single subject, and wherein the elements of the list include information on at least one digital television feeds; and

allowing the user to select one or more of the elements of the list.

18. The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:

highlighting one or more elements of the list using highlight regions to denote currently selected elements; and

removing one or more of the highlight regions from the display.

19. The method defined in claim 18, further comprising:

allowing the user to move the highlight region among the elements of the list.

20. The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:

displaying a checkbox adjacent to each element of the displayed list; and
allowing the user to toggle each checkbox between a selected mode and an unselected mode.

21. The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:

displaying a preview window that contains content corresponding to a selected element of the list, wherein the content in the preview window is any one of the following: video, text, or graphics.

22. The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:

displaying program listings that describe the content of digital television feeds that is currently not being transmitted, but that will be transmitted at a predetermined future time.

23. The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:

displaying program listings that describe the content of digital television feeds that are broadcast on an analog carrier other than the analog carrier currently tuned to.

24. The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:

allowing the user to program a reminder for content that is currently not being transmitted, but that will be transmitted at a future time.

25. The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:

allowing the user to program a future record operation to record content that is currently not being transmitted, but that will be transmitted at a future time.

26. The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:

allowing the user to select an option to display more information about particular content; and displaying more information about the particular content upon the user requesting more information.

27. The method defined in claim 17, wherein the single subject is business news.

28. The method defined in claim 17, wherein the single subject is music.

29. The method defined in claim 17, wherein the single subject is a sporting event.

30. The method defined in claim 17, wherein the single subject is a movie.

31. The method defined in claim 17, wherein the single subject is a network series.

32. A method for having an interactive television program guide display content retrieved from digital television feeds on user television equipment having a display, comprising:

displaying multiple windows on the display of the user television equipment, wherein the windows contain television content provided by the digital television feeds, wherein at least a majority of the windows contain content that relates to a single subject, and wherein the content of the windows is provided by at least one digital television feed; and allowing a user to move and resize the windows.

33. The method defined in claim 32, wherein the content is at least one of the following: text, graphical images, video, audio, data, interactive content, program listings, enhanced broadcasts.

34. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

activating an interactive application, wherein the interactive application has the ability to provide further information that relates to the single subject.

35. The method defined in claim 34, wherein the interactive application is comprised of a web browser.

36. The method defined in claim 34, wherein the interactive application is comprised of a chat application.

37. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

displaying the interactive application in a new window.

38. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

displaying the interactive application in a window currently displayed on the display.

39. The method defined in claim 32 further comprising:

automatically using the user television equipment to crop the content displayed in the windows after the windows have been resized if the displayed content no longer fits within the window borders.

40. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

automatically using the user television equipment to change the proportions of the content displayed in resized windows in accordance with the change in proportions of the resized windows.

41. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

displaying the windows in a cascading structure wherein a first window is viewable in the front of the cascading structure;

allowing the user to select a second window from among the remaining windows behind the first window in the cascading structure; and

changing the order of windows in the cascading structure wherein the second window is displayed in the front of the cascading structure.

42. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

displaying a set of icons that represent different digital television feeds;

allowing the user to select one or more icons from the set of icons; and

displaying the content of the digital television feeds that correspond to the icons that were selected by the user.

43. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

displaying a first window on the display of the user television equipment; and

displaying a second window on the display of the user television equipment on top of the first window, wherein the content of the first window is cropped in the area covered by the second window.

44. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

displaying a first window on the display of the user television equipment;

displaying a second window on the display of the user television equipment; and

allowing the user to move the second window, wherein movement of the second window is confined to the borders of the first window.

45. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

displaying at least one advertisement window on the display of the user television equipment; and

restricting the user from resizing the advertisement windows and from placing the advertisement windows anywhere outside the display.

46. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

creating one or more digital television feeds on the fly; and

displaying a new window on the display of the user television equipment that contains the content of the digital television feeds that were created on the fly.

47. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

displaying at least one window on the display of the user television equipment wherein the content of the window is an interactive ticker.

48. The method defined in claim 47, further comprising:

scrolling the ticker in any of the following directions: vertical, horizontal, or diagonal.

49. The method defined in claim 32, further comprising:

automatically resizing one or more windows, wherein the dimensions of the new windows are in predetermined ratios to one another.

50. The method defined in claim 49, wherein the areas enclosed by each of the resized windows is equivalent to the areas enclosed by the corresponding windows before being resized.

51. The method defined in claim 49, wherein the resizing is characterized by the use of a standard aspect ratio of 4:3 for the predetermined ratio.

52. The method defined in claim 49, wherein the resizing is characterized by the use of a standard aspect ratio of 16:9 for the predetermined ratio.

53. The method defined in claim 32, wherein the single subject is business news.

54. The method defined in claim 32, wherein the single subject is music.

55. The method defined in claim 32, wherein the single subject is a sporting event.

56. The method defined in claim 32, wherein the single subject is a movie.

57. The method defined in claim 32, wherein the single subject is a network series.

58. A method for adjusting user settings used in an interactive television program guide for digital television feeds, implemented using user television equipment, comprising:

using manufacturer-defined default user settings for the initial use of the user television equipment by a particular user;

automatically changing the user settings to correspond to preferences the user exhibits in the use of the interactive television application; and
storing the changed user settings for future use.

59. The method defined in claim 58, further comprising:

storing the user settings locally.

60. The method defined in claim 58, further comprising:

storing the user setting remotely.

61. The method defined in claim 58, further comprising:

storing the user setting locally and remotely.

62. The method defined in claim 58, further comprising:

automatically selecting which digital television feeds to display as a default upon tuning to a particular analog carrier by the current user based on the preferences of the current user.

63. The method defined in claim 58, further comprising:

automatically resizing and moving windows based on the preferences of the current user.

64. The method defined in claim 58, further comprising:

automatically selecting a particular language for subtitles.

65. The method defined in claim 58, further comprising:

automatically selecting a particular language for dubbing.

66. The method defined in claim 58 further comprising:

maintaining a separate set of user preferences for each user of the user television equipment; and

allowing the user to log in to activate the user's particular set of preferences.

67. A system for having an interactive television program guide arrange television content retrieved from digital television feeds on user television equipment having a display, wherein black areas are present either on the top and bottom, or the left and right of a displayed program that is broadcast in an aspect ratio that does not match the aspect ratio of the display of the user television equipment, comprising user television equipment configured to:

place content in the black areas such that the amount of space occupied by the black areas decreases by the amount of space occupied by the new content, wherein the content that is placed in the black areas is provided by at least one digital television feed.

68. The system defined in claim 67, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

use windows to contain the content, wherein the windows are arranged in the black areas.

69. The system defined in claim 67, wherein the content is at least one of the following: text, graphical images, video, audio, data, interactive content, program listings, enhanced broadcasts.

70. The system defined in claim 67, wherein the content is comprised of an interactive application.

71. The system defined in claim 67, wherein the interactive application is comprised of a web browser.

72. The system defined in claim 67, wherein the interactive application is comprised of a chat application.

73. The system defined in claim 67, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

move content that is in a part of the black areas to areas that are not part of the black areas causing the amount of space taken up by the black areas to increase by the amount of space taken up the content that has been moved out of the black areas.

74. The system defined in claim 67, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

resize content that is in the black areas causing the amount of space taken up by the black areas to change by an amount equivalent to the change in the amount of space the resized content takes up.

75. A system for arranging television content retrieved from digital television feeds on user television equipment having a display, wherein black areas are present either on the top and bottom, or the left and right of a displayed program that is broadcast in an aspect ratio that does not match the aspect ratio of the display of the user television equipment, comprising user television equipment configured to:

place content in the black areas such that the amount of space occupied by the black areas decreases by the amount of space occupied by the new content, wherein the content that is placed in the black areas is provided by at least two digital television feeds.

76. The system defined in claim 75, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

use windows to contain the content, wherein the windows are arranged in the black areas.

77. The system defined in claim 75, wherein the content is at least one of the following: text, graphical images, video, audio, data, interactive content, program listings, enhanced broadcasts.

78. The system defined in claim 77, wherein the content is comprised of an interactive application.

79. The system defined in claim 77, wherein the interactive application is comprised of a web browser.

80. The system defined in claim 77, wherein the interactive application is comprised of a chat application.

81. The system defined in claim 75, further comprising user television equipment configured to:
move content that is in a part of the black areas to areas that are not part of the black areas causing the amount of space taken up by the black areas to increase by the amount of space taken up the content that has been moved out of the black areas.

82. The system defined in claim 75, further comprising user television equipment configured to:
resize content that is in the black areas causing the amount of area taken up by the black areas to change by an amount equivalent to the change in the amount of area the resized content takes up.

83. A system for having an interactive television program guide display information regarding digital television feeds on user television equipment having a display, comprising user television equipment configured to:

display a list on the display of the user television equipment of content that is available on one or more digital feeds that are carried on an analog carrier, wherein the list contains elements, at least a majority of which are related to a single subject, and wherein the elements of the list include

information on at least one digital television feed;
and

allow the user to select one or more of
the elements of the list.

84. The system defined in claim 83, further
comprising user television equipment configured to:

highlight one or more elements of the
list using highlight regions to denote currently
selected elements; and

remove one or more of the highlight
regions from the display.

85. The system defined in claim 84, further
comprising user television equipment configured to:

allow the user to move the highlight
region among the elements of the list.

86. The system defined in claim 83, further
comprising user television equipment configured to:

display a checkbox adjacent to each
element of the displayed list; and

allow the user to toggle each checkbox
between a selected mode and an unselected mode.

87. The system defined in claim 83, further
comprising user television equipment configured to:

display a preview window that contains
content corresponding to a selected element of the
list, wherein the content in the preview window is any
one of the following: video, text, or graphics.

88. The system defined in claim 83, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

display program listings that describe the content of digital television feeds that is currently not being transmitted, but that will be transmitted at a predetermined future time.

89. The system defined in claim 83, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

display program listings that describe the content of digital television feeds that are broadcast on an analog carrier other than the analog carrier currently tuned to.

90. The system defined in claim 83, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

allow the user to program a reminder for content that is currently not being transmitted, but that will be transmitted at a future time.

91. The system defined in claim 83, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

allow the user to program a future record operation to record content that is currently not being transmitted, but that will be transmitted at a future time.

92. The system defined in claim 83, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

allow the user to select an option to display more information about particular content; and display more information about the particular content upon the user requesting more information.

93. The system defined in claim 83, wherein the single subject is business news.

94. The system defined in claim 83, wherein the single subject is music.

95. The system defined in claim 83, wherein the single subject is a sporting event.

96. The system defined in claim 83, wherein the single subject is a movie.

97. The system defined in claim 83, wherein the single subject is a network series.

98. A system for displaying content retrieved from digital television feeds on user television equipment having a display, comprising user television equipment configured to:

display multiple windows on the display of the user television equipment, wherein the windows contain television content provided by the digital television feeds, wherein at least a majority of the windows contain content that relates to a single subject, and wherein the content of the windows is provided by at least two digital television feeds; and
allow a user to move and resize the windows.

99. The system defined in claim 98, wherein the content is at least one of the following: text, graphical images, video, audio, data, interactive content, program listings, enhanced broadcasts.

100. The system defined in claim 98, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

activate an interactive application, wherein the interactive application has the ability to provide further information that relates to the single subject.

101. The system defined in claim 100, wherein the interactive application is comprised of a web browser.

102. The system defined in claim 100, wherein the interactive application is comprised of a chat application.

103. The system defined in claim 98, further comprising user television equipment configured to:
display the interactive application in a new window.

104. The system defined in claim 98, further comprising user television equipment configured to:
display the interactive application in a window currently displayed on the display.

105. The system defined in claim 98 further comprising user television equipment configured to:
automatically use the user television equipment to crop the content displayed in the windows after the windows have been resized if the displayed content no longer fits within the window borders.

106. The system defined in claim 98, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

automatically use the user television equipment to change the proportions of the content displayed in resized windows in accordance with the change in proportions of the resized windows.

107. The system defined in claim 98, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

display the windows in a cascading structure wherein a first window is viewable in the front of the cascading structure;

allow the user to select a second window from among the remaining windows behind the first window in the cascading structure; and

change the order of windows in the cascading structure wherein the second window is displayed in the front of the cascading structure.

108. The system defined in claim 98, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

display a set of icons that represent different digital television feeds;

allow the user to select one or more icons from the set of icons; and

display the content of the digital television feeds that correspond to the icons that were selected by the user.

109. The system defined in claim 98, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

display a first window on the display of the user television equipment; and

display a second window on the display of the user television equipment on top of the first window with the content of the first window being cropped in the area covered by the second window.

110. The system defined in claim 98, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

display a first window on the display of the user television equipment;

display a second window on the display of the user television equipment; and

allow the user to move the second window, wherein movement of the second window is confined to the borders of the first window.

111. The system defined in claim 98, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

display at least one advertisement window on the display of the user television equipment; and

restrict the user from resizing the advertisement windows and from placing the advertisement windows anywhere outside the display.

112. The system defined in claim 98, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

create one or more digital television feeds on the fly; and

display a new window on the display of the user television equipment that contains the content of the digital television feeds that were created on the fly.

113. The system defined in claim 98, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

display at least one window on the display of the user television equipment wherein the content of the window is an interactive ticker.

114. The system defined in claim 113, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

scroll the ticker in any of the following directions: vertical, horizontal, or diagonal.

115. The system defined in claim 113, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

automatically resize one or more windows, wherein the dimensions of the new windows are in predetermined ratios to one another.

116. The system defined in claim 115, wherein the areas enclosed by each of the resized windows is equivalent to the areas enclosed by the corresponding windows before being resized.

117. The system defined in claim 115, wherein the predetermined ratio is a standard aspect ratio of 4:3.

118. The system defined in claim 115, wherein the predetermined ratio is a wide-screen aspect ratio of 16:9.

119. The system defined in claim 113, wherein the single subject is business news.

120. The system defined in claim 113, wherein the single subject is music.

121. The system defined in claim 113, wherein the single subject is a sporting event.

122. The system defined in claim 113, wherein the single subject is a movie.

123. The system defined in claim 113, wherein the single subject is a network series.

124. A system for adjusting user settings used in an interactive television application implemented using user television equipment, comprising user television equipment configured to:

use manufacturer-defined default user settings for the initial use of the user television equipment by a particular user;

automatically change the user settings to correspond to preferences the user exhibits in the use of the interactive television application; and

store the changed user settings for future use.

125. The system defined in claim 124, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

store the user settings locally.

126. The system defined in claim 124, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

store the user setting remotely.

127. The system defined in claim 124, further comprising user television equipment configured to:
store the user setting locally and remotely.

128. The system defined in claim 124, further comprising user television equipment configured to:
automatically select which digital television feeds to display as a default upon tuning to a particular analog carrier by the current user based on the preferences of the current user.

129. The system defined in claim 124, further comprising user television equipment configured to:
automatically resize and moving windows based on the preferences of the current user.

130. The system defined in claim 124, further comprising user television equipment configured to:
automatically select a particular language for subtitles.

131. The system defined in claim 124, further comprising user television equipment configured to:
automatically select a particular language for dubbing.

132. The system defined in claim 124 further comprising user television equipment configured to:
maintain a separate set of user preferences for each user of the user television equipment; and

allow the user to log in to activate the user's particular set of preferences.

133. A method for displaying content retrieved from digital television feeds on user television equipment having a display, comprising:

displaying multiple windows on the display of the user television equipment, wherein the windows contain television content provided by the digital television feeds, wherein at least a majority of the windows contain content that relates to a single subject, and wherein the content of the windows is provided by at least two digital television feeds; and allowing a user to move and resize the windows.

134. The method defined in claim 133, wherein the content is at least one of the following: text, graphical images, video, audio, data, interactive content, program listings, enhanced broadcasts.

135. The method defined in claim 133 further comprising:

automatically using the user television equipment to crop the content displayed in the windows after the windows have been resized if the displayed content no longer fits within the window borders.

136. The method defined in claim 133, further comprising:

automatically using the user television equipment to change the proportions of the content displayed in resized windows in accordance with the change in proportions of the resized windows.

137. The method defined in claim 133, further comprising:

displaying at least one advertisement window on the display of the user television equipment;
and

restricting the user from resizing the advertisement windows and from placing the advertisement windows anywhere outside the display.

138. The method defined in claim 133, further comprising:

creating one or more digital television feeds on the fly; and

displaying a new window on the display of the user television equipment that contains the content of the digital television feeds that were created on the fly.

139. The method defined in claim 133, further comprising:

automatically resizing one or more windows, wherein the dimensions of the new windows are in predetermined ratios to one another.

140. The method defined in claim 139, wherein the resizing is characterized by the use of a standard aspect ratio of 4:3 for the predetermined ratio.

141. The method defined in claim 139, wherein the resizing is characterized by the use of a standard aspect ratio of 16:9 for the predetermined ratio.

142. A system for displaying content retrieved from digital television feeds on user television equipment having a display, comprising user television equipment configured to:

display multiple windows on the display of the user television equipment, wherein the windows contain television content provided by the digital television feeds, wherein at least a majority of the windows contain content that relates to a single subject, and wherein the content of the windows is provided by at least two digital television feeds; and allow a user to move and resize the windows.

143. The system defined in claim 142, wherein the content is at least one of the following: text, graphical images, video, audio, data, interactive content, program listings, enhanced broadcasts.

144. The system defined in claim 142 further comprising user television equipment configured to:

automatically use the user television equipment to crop the content displayed in the windows after the windows have been resized if the displayed content no longer fits within the window borders.

145. The system defined in claim 142, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

automatically use the user television equipment to change the proportions of the content displayed in resized windows in accordance with the change in proportions of the resized windows.

146. The system defined in claim 142, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

display at least one advertisement window on the display of the user television equipment; and

restrict the user from resizing the advertisement windows and from placing the advertisement windows anywhere outside the display.

147. The system defined in claim 142, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

create one or more digital television feeds on the fly; and

display a new window on the display of the user television equipment that contains the content of the digital television feeds that were created on the fly.

148. The system defined in claim 142, further comprising user television equipment configured to:

automatically resize one or more windows, wherein the dimensions of the new windows are in predetermined ratios to one another.

149. The system defined in claim 148, wherein the predetermined ratio is a standard aspect ratio of 4:3.

150. The system defined in claim 148, wherein the predetermined ratio is a wide-screen aspect ratio of 16:9.